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EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 8-24-09 has been entered.

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

3. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Thomas Bean on November 6, 2009.

4. The application has been amended as follows:

In the Abstract:

Replace the abstract filed 8-29-08 with the abstract as follows:

ABSTRACT

An interlabial pad is provided that can be easily worn in the interlabial space. A wrapping body is provided that contains the interlabial pad. In the interlabial pad, a finger insertion cavity is formed along the longitudinal direction of a back side sheet between a mini-sheet piece and the side opposite to body on the back side sheet. An opening of the finger insertion cavity for inserting a finger leads to a finger insertion restriction portion which further restricts the insertion of the finger.

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In the Specification(as originally filed and amended by the prelim. amendment of
11/10/2003):

in the title on page 1: Change “INTERLABIAL PAD AND PACKAGE” to --
INTERLABIAL PAD AND WRAPPING BODY--;

page 1, line 13: change “prevention” to --invention--;

page 3, line 9: change “Disclosure” to --Summary--;

page 3, line 12, change “to” to --within--;

page 3, line 15: change “comprising...pad” to --that--;

page 3, line 16: delete “dexterously”;

page 3, line 17: delete “having a fineness of perception”;

page 3, line 18 change “that...opening” to --having a finger insertion cavity-- and after
“inserted”, insert --while--;

page 3, lines 19-20: change “and a...are” to --is--;

page 3, line 20: change “stopper” to --restriction--;

page 3, line 21: change “opening” to --cavity--;

page 3, lines 22-24: change “capable...pad to” to --which permits fixing stably and
smoothly the interlabial pad in--;

page 14, line 14: change “X-X” to --I-I--;

page 14, line 16: change “Y-Y” to --II-II--;

page 14: line 18: change “Z-Z” to --III-III--;

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page 15: replace lines 23-24 with --Figs. 13A-D each illustrate a lateral cross-section of the pad to explain an embodiment of the bonded part between the mini sheet piece and the side opposite to of the back side sheet.--;

page 17, lines 7, 9 and 11, page 20, lines 10, 12 and 13, page 21, lines 1 and 7, page 25, lines 1 and 27, page 26, lines 6 and 10, page 27, line 13, page 28, lines 6, 8, 11, 12, 13, 16, and 18, page 29, line 6, page 30, lines 13 and 25, each occurrence: after “Fig.”, insert a space, i.e. -- Fig. --,;

page 17, line 7: change “Q-Q” to --VI-VI--;

page 17, line 9: change “M-M” to --V-V--;

page 17, line 11: change “N-N” to --IV-IV--;

page 18, line 8: change “Best Mode of Carrying Out” to --Detailed Description of --;

page 18, line 15: change “X-X” to --I-I--;

page 18, line 16: change “Y-Y” to --II-II--;

page 18: line 18: change “Z-Z” to --III-III--;

page 19: lines 11 and 19: after “opening”, last occurrence, insert --7--;

page 19, lines 13 and 20: delete “7”;

page 19, lines 19 and 26: delete “finger insertion”, last occurrence;

page 20, line 2: delete “finger insertion”, first occurrence;

page 24, in the paragraph beginning at line 26, line 2 thereof: change “schematic...explain” to --lateral cross-section of the pad to explain an embodiment of--;

page 30, line 25: change “Q-Q” to --VI-VI--;

page 30, line 26: change “M-M” to --V-V-- and “N-N” to --IV-IV--;

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page 31, line 19: change "21" to --38--;

page 44: delete line 9.

In Claim 26(Patent Claim 1):

26. (Currently Amended) An interlabial pad for absorbing body fluid having a substantially rectangular shape comprising:

a face adapted to face a body;

an opposite face adapted to face a garment;

said substantially rectangular-shaped pad having [first and second edges at] opposing first and second terminal end edges in a longitudinal direction of the interlabial pad;

a cavity for finger insertion formed along the longitudinal direction of the interlabial pad on the opposite face, the cavity being formed between the opposite face and a mini-sheet; the mini-sheet having a first terminal end edge and a second terminal end edge in the longitudinal direction of the interlabial pad, wherein the mini-sheet is directly attached to a portion of the opposite face; and

a cavity opening formed from the first terminal end edge of the mini-sheet for guiding a fingertip of a wearer inserted therein toward a finger restriction portion formed at an opposing end of the cavity and adapted to stop the fingertip inserted therein, the opposing end of the cavity being at a position displaced from the second terminal end edge of the mini-sheet toward the first terminal end edge of the mini-sheet;

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wherein the mini-sheet extends from one lateral side to another lateral side of the interlabial pad and has a total length from the first terminal end edge thereof to the second terminal end edge thereof in the longitudinal direction of 50% to 80% of an entire length of the interlabial pad from the first terminal end edge of the pad to the second terminal end edge of the pad;

wherein the mini-sheet extends in the longitudinal direction from a position displaced from the second terminal end edge of the interlabial pad to an intermediate position along the longitudinal direction between the first and second terminal end edges of the interlabial pad;

wherein a cross-sectional area of the cavity is gradually narrowed along the longitudinal direction of the interlabial pad in a direction proceeding from the first terminal end edge toward the second terminal end edge of the interlabial pad, such that the fingertip that is inserted can be stopped;

wherein the finger restriction portion is defined by two facing portions of a fold formed in the opposite face, the fold extending in a longitudinal direction from the first terminal end edge to the second terminal end edge of the interlabial pad;

wherein the two facing portions include respective portions which are substantially parallel to each other in a plane that is substantially perpendicular to a plane extending through the crest of the fold from the opposite face to the face adapted to face the body[[the fold]], the two facing portions being directly bonded to

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each other at [[least at a]] respective [[portion]] locations thereof juxtaposed to said plane
extending through said crest[[,]];

wherein the fold formed in the opposite face forms a portion protruding from a remaining portion of the face adapted to face the body, and the remaining portion forms a first planar portion at one side of the protruding portion and a second planar portion at another side of the protruding portion which portions are [[being]] substantially parallel to one another[[;]] and parallel with and opposite to the respective portions of the two facing portions;

wherein the protruding portion is coextensive with the fold.

In Claim 6(Patent Claim 2):

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The interlabial pad according to claim 26, wherein an interval dimension between the cavity opening for finger insertion and said finger restriction portion is 10% to 80% of [[a maximum]] the entire length in the longitudinal direction of the [[opposite face]] interlabial pad.

In Claim 7(Patent Claim 3):

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): The interlabial pad according to claim [[1]]26, wherein the cavity opening [[proceeds]] formed from the first terminal end edge of the mini-sheet [[that]] is disposed at a location that is 40% from the first end edge along the longitudinal direction of the interlabial pad, and wherein said finger restriction portion is disposed at a location that is 90% from the first end edge along the longitudinal direction of the interlabial pad.

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In Claim 21(Patent Claim 9):

Claim 21 (Currently Amended): The interlabial pad according to claim 26, wherein the mini-sheet is attached [[so as to be]] in direct contact with the respective portions of the two facing portions formed in [[portions of]] the opposite face [[forming]] opposite to the respective first planar portion and the second planar portion [[covered thereby, wherein the mini-sheet is arranged opposite to the cavity opening]].

Claims 1-5, 9 and 18 were cancelled.

Claims 8, 10-11, 15-17, 19-20 and 22-23 are cancelled.

Claims 6-7, 12-14, 21 and 24-27 are allowed.

5. The following changes to the drawings have been approved by the examiner and agreed upon by applicant: See attached corrections. In order to avoid abandonment of the application, applicant must make these above agreed upon drawing changes.

6. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled “Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance.”

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Karin M. Reichle whose telephone number is (571) 272-4936.

The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tanya Zalukaeva can be reached on (571) 272-1115. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Karin M. Reichle/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3761

November 9, 2009